**Underground water table**

†3187. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RERSOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that underground water table is falling constantly in India;

(b) the extent to which underground water table has fallen in the capital cities of various States of the country and what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what action Government are taking for rain-water harvesting in different cities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) The long-term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board under the Ministry of Water Resources, have shown a situation of fall in the level of ground water in some localised pockets of various parts of the country.

(b) The extent of fall in ground water level as per observations made by the Central Ground Water Board, in some of the capital cities of various States of the country is given in the enclosed Statement (*see below*). In order capital cities of the States, no significant fall in ground water level has been observed.

(c) Water, being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government to plan, finance and execute schemes for augmenting water resources. The Central Government is also promoting rain water harvesting in the country. The Central Ground Water Board is implementing a pilot Central Sector Scheme on "Studies on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water" in various States. The traditional rain water harvesting techniques are also being adopted in various parts of the country. With a view to promoting roof top rain water harvesting, the Ministry of Water Resources has proposed to the Ministry of Urban Development to consider

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

enactment of suitable legislation for provision of roof top rain water harvesting in cities. Accordingly, the Madras Metropolitan Development Authority (MMDA) has issued regulations for conservation of roof top rain water. Delhi Government has also decided to make water harvesting compulsory in all new residential buildings, group housing societies and plotted residential areas of over 500 sq. mts.

**Statement**

Extent of Decline in Ground Water Level

| Sl. No. | City | Extent of decline in ground water level |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Lucknow | 6 to 17 metre at the rate of 0.56 metre/ year. |
| 2. | Chennai | Upto 4 metre in the 10 percent of the wells monitored. |
| 3. | Kolkata | 5 to 9 metre is observed over a period of four decades |
| 4. | Jaipur | 0.7 to 1.1 metre/year |
| 5. | Chandigarh | 2.5 to 5 metre |
| 6. | Gandhinagar | 11 to 22 metre |
| 7. | Bhubaneshwar | 0.02 to 0.10 meter/year |
| 8. | Hyderabad | 0.45 to 1.5 metre/year |
| 9. | Ranchi | Upto 1 metre |
| 10. | Panaji | Upto 1 metre |